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EDITORIAL NOTES

There has just come from the press of the Macmillan Company Vol. I of a comprehensive educational treatise which is **A Cyclopedic of Education** to contain in five volumes a general survey of all the topics which the teacher and the educational administrator discuss in their practical and technical conferences. Such psychological terms as "abstraction," "adolescence," and "attention" are treated. Such practical problems as "Air in the Schoolroom" and the "School System of Alabama" are taken up in this first volume. One finds here also all the higher institutions of learning, the chief persons who have figured in educational history, all the subjects of instruction, such as "architecture" and "agriculture."

The editor of this cyclopedia is Professor Paul Monroe, whose works on the history of education are universally known and appreciated. The list of departmental editors includes fifteen leading students of educational problems in this country and England.

This note is not intended as a review of the work; such an account will appear in the course of time and will take up fully the contents and character of the work.

General Significance of the Book In the meantime it is worthy of comment that such a work has appeared in the English language. American teachers have been discussing for many years the possibility of developing a general body of educational doctrine which shall give unity to educational practice. In Germany they have had for some years a comprehensive work of the type now presented in English, in Rein's *Encyclopedia*. To be sure, the German work has not solved the problem of unifying German schools. Nor can any English work solve all our American problems. But both works serve in a very direct fashion to bring educational interests to a focus. There will be contradictions in the present work, there will be many posi-

tions defended which will not stand in the years to come; but at all events we have now a common basis for discussions and for future formulations. This cyclopedia shows in definite form what has been achieved in America toward a definition of education, and it will promote further evolution by making clear what is past and by its statement of present practices and present aims.

This cyclopedia serves one purpose which has been the subject of editorial comment in earlier numbers of this journal.

Educational Terminology We have here a common foundation on which to develop a technical educational terminology. There is no possibility of a general interest in educational science until teachers master some of the terms appropriate to their profession. The architect, the banker, the engineer, all find it necessary to master a technical terminology, and these specialists do not complain when books and articles addressed to them contain such special terms. Teachers have been less willing than members of other professions to master the terminology necessary in their special discussions. Indeed, there has been no good book to which the teacher could turn for explanation of these terms. Here is such a book of reference. When writers on education use technical words in the future, they can do it with some assurance that the reader who wishes to study education seriously has a reference work. All discussions will be made accessible by this work.

Finally, the book contains a great deal of material which will at once command universal acceptance. It is, therefore,

Brings Together and Formulates Doctrines a strong influence in the direction of a central rational interpretation of American education. The articles present a body of scholarly material which will command respect from readers in other departments of science and letters. The intelligent general reader will also find here a broad view of school problems and educational doctrine. For what it contains, for what it codifies and makes available, and for what it promises, the book will be most heartily welcomed by all who are laboring to make American education scientific and systematic.

The report of the Committee of Seven of the Northern Illinois Superintendents' and Principals' Association will appear **The Committee of Seven of the Northern Illinois Superintendents' and Principals' Association** in the April and May numbers of this journal. The complete report will be in the hands of members of the Association by April 10. The annual meeting will be held at DeKalb, as usual, on May 5 and 6. The special topic this year is "Elementary Science." The Committee of Seven has held a meeting in Chicago each month since September, and its report is now in the hands of a subcommittee for final writing.